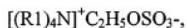


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads particles comprising steps of:
impregnating styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads particles with an easily volatile blowing agent to obtain expandable resin beads particles, and
impregnating 100 parts by weight of the expandable resin beads particles with 0.1 to 2.0 parts by weight of a surfactant at a temperature of 10 to 30°C and an internal pressure of 0.05 to 0.30 MPa, to obtain expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads particles, wherein the surfactant is represented by the following general formula (1):



and R1 is the same or different, and optionally branched alkyl group of a carbon number of 1 to 17;

where the styrene-modified olefin-based resin particles comprise a polyolefin-based resin and a polystyrene-based resin, the polyolefin-based resin being selected from a low-density polyethylene, a medium-density polyethylene, a high-density polyethylene, a linear low-density polyethylene, an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, a polypropylene, a propylene-ethylene copolymer, and a propylene-1-butene copolymer.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for producing expandable beads particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is dissolved in an aqueous medium.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for producing expandable beads particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is a cationic surfactant.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for producing expandable beads particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is liquid at a temperature of 10 to 30°C.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for producing pre-expanded beads particles comprising step of :

pre-expanding the expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads particles obtained by the method of claim 1 by heating with water steam at a gauge pressure of 0.01 to 0.10 MPa, to obtain pre-expanded beads particles.

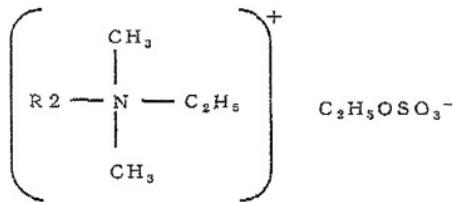
6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing expanded molded beads particles comprising step of :

expanding-molding the pre-expanded beads particles obtained by the method of claim 5 by heating with water steam at a gauge pressure of 0.05 to 0.15 MPa, to obtain an expanded molded article.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for producing expandable beads particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant has a total number of carbon atoms of least 5.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method for producing expandable beads particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is represented by the following general formula:



,

wherein R2 is a straight or branched alkyl group having a carbon number of 5 to 20.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for producing expandable beads particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is added to give an antistatic effect to the expandable beads particles.